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Halifax Regional Council  
April 15, 2003

**TO:** Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

**SUBMITTED BY:**

  
George McLellan, Chief Administrative Officer

**DATE:** April 4, 2003

**SUBJECT:** Wildland Firefighting Equipment

**ORIGIN**

Recent changes in industry standards respecting the type of Personal Protective Equipment used for the fighting of brush fires.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that:

1. Council approve the addition of a new project to the 2003/04 Capital Budget for Wildland Firefighting Equipment in the amount of \$60,000, with no net cost to HRM as funding will be provided from a cancelled project as indicated in the Budget Implications section of this report.

**BACKGROUND**

Currently, our crews fight brush fires in their fatigues which only have little, if any, contact protection for our personnel. The Provincial Department of Natural Resources has specified that their own personnel now wear Nomex Brush Coveralls. These suits provide far superior protection. In the interest of being proactive in the protection of our personnel, we would like to see the same standard implemented in the HRM Fire Service.

**DISCUSSION**

In light of this priority, Fire and Emergency Services has decided to forgo the compressed air foam systems project and transfer the funds to the new Wildland Firefighting Equipment Project.

**BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

Financial Services staff have confirmed the funding of account YEF00703 as being available to fund this new project, as project CEF00703, Foam System Upgrade, will be cancelled, therefore the prior approved Capital from Operating funding of \$60,000 is still available for this new project.

**FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES/BUSINESS PLANS**

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy as well as relevant legislation.

**ALTERNATIVES**

There are no recommended alternatives to the course of this action.

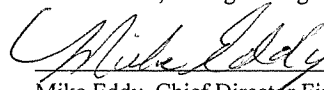
**ATTACHMENTS**

None

Additional copies of this report, and information on its status, can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by: David Smith, Acting Manager-Logistics

Report Approved by:



Mike Eddy, Chief Director Fire and Emergency Services